

**MINUTES**  
**BROWN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, March 9, 2009**  
**Green Bay Metro Transportation Center**  
**901 University Avenue**  
**Green Bay, Wisconsin**  
**9:45 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Sunny Archambault	<u>          x          </u>	Nick Mahlik	<u>          x          </u>
Betty Bennett	<u>                          </u>	Byia Martin	<u>                          </u>
Linda Blohowiak	<u>          x          </u>	Barbara Natelle	<u>                          </u>
Diana Brown	<u>                          </u>	Jennifer Nelson	<u>          x          </u>
Brandon Cooper	<u>                          </u>	Sandy Popp	<u>          x          </u>
Chris Culotta	<u>          Exc.          </u>	Cole Runge	<u>          x          </u>
Pat Finder-Stone	<u>          x          </u>	Jayme Sellen	<u>          Exc.          </u>
Chris Hasselbacher	<u>          x          </u>	Julie Tetzlaff	<u>          x          </u>
Kathy Hillary	<u>                          </u>	Mary Van Acker	<u>                          </u>
Kathy Johnson	<u>          x          </u>	Vacant – BC Board	<u>                          </u>

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lisa J. Conard, Tim Hennig, Steve Rosenbaum for (Nick Mahlik), and Rhonda Schmitt.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

C. Runge called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

1. Approval of the December 8, 2008, TCC meeting minutes.

S. Rosenbaum stated that Medicaid should replace the word Medicare on the last page of the minutes.

A motion was made by K. Johnson, seconded by S. Archambault, to approve the December 8, 2008, TCC meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

**Introduction of Ms. Rhonda Schmitt.**

C. Runge introduced Ms. Rhonda Schmitt. R. Schmitt is the first Mobility Manager for Brown County. The Mobility Manager position is being funded through a WETAP grant with a local match provided by the Forward Service Foundation. R. Schmitt will be located in the Wisconsin Job Center building.

L. Conard noted that creating a Mobility Manager for Brown County was one of the *Action Plan* items identified in the *2006 and 2008 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan for Brown County* and in the *2007 Specialized Transportation Study for Brown County*.

R. Schmitt's contact information is as follows:

Rhonda Schmitt  
Mobility Manager  
Forward Service Foundation  
Green Bay Job Center  
701 Cherry Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301-4932  
[rschmitt@fsc-corp.org](mailto:rschmitt@fsc-corp.org)  
Phone (920) 448-6741

R. Schmitt stated that she will become the point of contact for unmet transportation needs in Brown County. She stated she is looking forward to working with area agencies.

S. Archambault asked if she can help coordinate trips outside of Brown County.

R. Schmitt stated that this is possible.

L. Conard stated that Door County and Manitowoc County have mobility managers.

J. Nelson stated that Ms. Pam Bush is the Mobility Manager for Door County and would be an excellent resource.

R. Schmitt stated she will be taking a course on Mobility Management in the near future.

R. Schmitt will be invited to future TCC meetings but will not be an official voting member.

2. Discussion of the possibility of hospitals providing post-appointment rides for disabled patients.

C. Runge stated that P. Finder-Stone has discussed the issue with Mr. Jim Collar and Mr. Larry Connor. C. Runge and P. Finder-Stone will be meeting with Mr. Connor on March 25, 2009, and will report back at the next meeting.

C. Runge thanked P. Finder-Stone for making the initial contacts with Mr. Collar and Mr. Connor.

3. Demonstration of the Google Transit trip planning system.

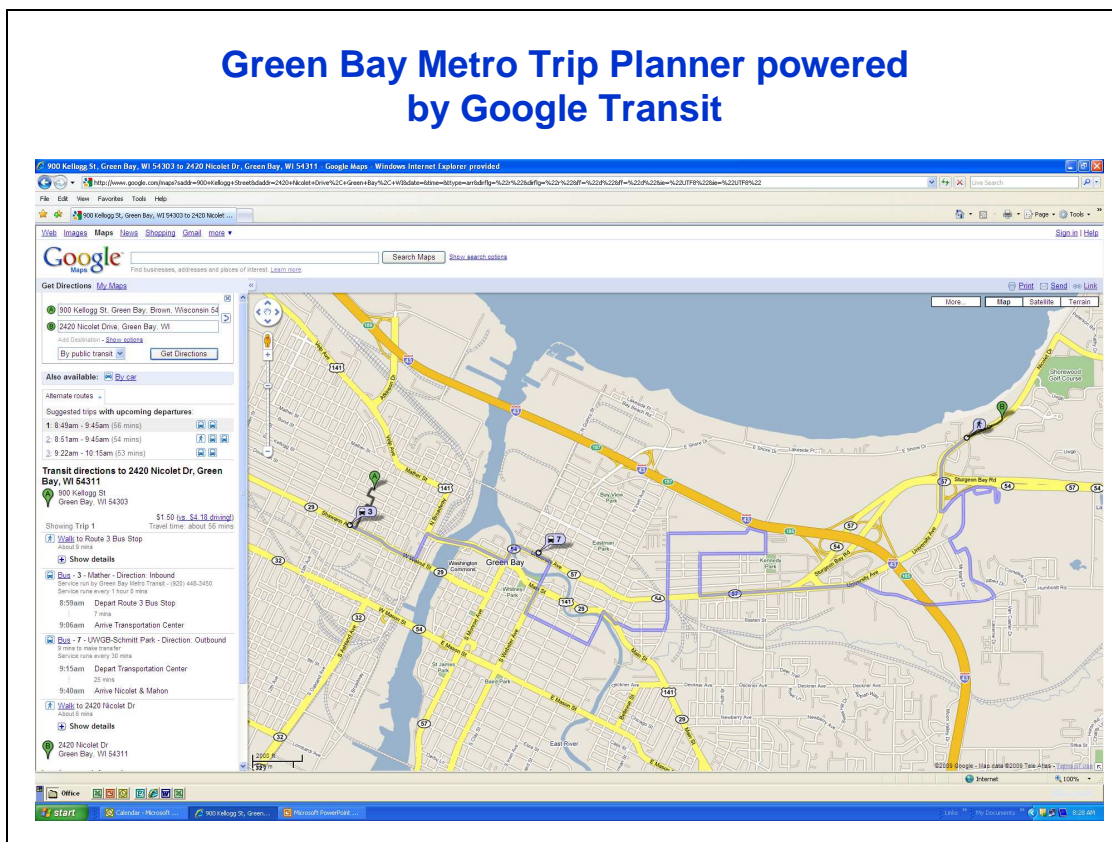
T. Hennig of the Brown County Planning Commission provided the committee with a demonstration of the *Green Bay Metro Trip Planner* powered by Google Transit.

K. Johnson stated that she recently attended a conference in San Francisco. Many in attendance were surprised to hear that a small system such as Green Bay Metro had

the technical capability to provide its customers with the Google Transit tool. K. Johnson thanked T. Hennig and the rest of the MPO staff for their work on the project.

T. Hennig stated that it was a group effort with MPO, Green Bay Metro, Brown County Information Services, and Google Transit staffs participating in the process.

T. Hennig demonstrated a trip scenario by entering a trip origin, trip destination, departure time, and date. Typically, Google will provide three different options. Each option should be reviewed to determine the best fit for the individual. Some scenarios may have more walking but less overall travel time and vice versa.



T. Hennig also showed the bus stop feature. T. Hennig stated that an unpaid intern took a GPS reading and a photo of each of Metro's 1,700 bus stops and documented the following attributes into a database: shelters, benches, sidewalks, pay phones, mail boxes, ashtrays, street lights, and shade.

### Green Bay Metro Bus Stop



S. Popp asked if the route changes by Badger Street had been made in Google Transit.

T. Hennig stated yes. T. Hennig stated Google Transit can be accessed through the city of Green Bay's website, Green Bay Metro's website at [www.GreenBayMetro.org](http://www.GreenBayMetro.org), or directly through Google Transit. It can even be accessed by a cellular phone.

C. Runge stated that the Brown County Planning Commission staff is available to provide Google Transit Trip Planner demonstrations to area agencies upon request. C. Runge stated that staff has made several already, including one to the Job Center staff and clients.

Brown County Planning Commission staff developed a Google Transit Trip Planner information card (business card sized). The card was made available to committee members.

T. Hennig stated that the next step would be for Green Bay Metro to purchase a network server so Metro could host its own trip planning tool. This would eliminate the dependence on Google Transit. This should be tied to the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology Metro hopes to receive funding for in the future. This would allow the user to view, in real time, where the bus is relative to their stop.

C. Runge stated that if the Green Bay Metro-Valley Transit Commuter Service is implemented, the two systems could be tied together through the trip planning software as well.

4. Other matters.

K. Johnson asked C. Runge for an update of the status of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) effort.

C. Runge stated that he was recently told that the State of Wisconsin Legislative Council on Regional Transportation Authorities met on Wednesday, March 4, 2009. The committee, with bipartisan support, recommended RTA enabling legislation for the state by a vote of 18 to 2. A draft bill will need to be written and C. Runge is hopeful that this will pass through the state assembly and senate in the near future.

S. Popp stated that she has lived near the intersection of Military Avenue and Western Avenue for approximately 20 years. She has seen many legally blind (with cane) individuals cross Military Avenue.

S. Popp stated she was aware that the city of Green Bay recently approved installing six roundabouts along Military Avenue, but later opted not to.

S. Popp asked C. Runge if roundabouts are safe for pedestrians.

C. Runge stated that roundabouts have proven to be safer for pedestrians than traffic signals. There are more than 20 roundabouts in Brown County.

S. Popp stated that all traffic must stop for someone with a cane (an individual with vision impairment) whether they are at a signalized intersection or at a roundabout.

L. Blohowiak indicated that if a roundabout is built near ASPIRO, she would appreciate roundabout training for her clients.

C. Runge stated that this should be discussed.

Discussion occurred regarding the 24 proposed roundabouts along US 41 in Brown County and the three roundabouts planned for Velp Avenue in Green Bay and Howard. The projects are under the jurisdiction of WisDOT.

R. Schmitt stated that Forward Service Foundation will be hosting a transportation network meeting intended to allow agencies to meet R. Schmitt and discuss items of mutual interest. The meeting will be held on:

Tuesday, March 31, 2009  
Green Bay Job Center  
701 Cherry Street  
Green Bay, Wisconsin  
10:30 a.m.

R. Schmitt stated that she has met with Dr. David Littig of the Bay Area Community Council to discuss the transportation needs of low-income residents.

P. Finder-Stone stated that she is a member of the Bay Area Community Council.

Dr. Littig has been interviewing people and collecting transportation-related data. The results of the survey will appear in a white paper. Surveys have been conducted at Job Service and at ASPIRO, among others. St. Norbert College will be tabulating the results of the survey.

TCC members indicated they would like to extend an invitation to Dr. Littig to share the results of his study. The Brown County Planning Commission staff will invite Dr. Littig to a future meeting.

J. Nelson reported that Red Cross is now using the software program *Route Match* to schedule trips and dispatch vehicles for their transportation program. Early results appear to be very favorable. J. Nelson will provide the committee with detailed data at a future meeting.

C. Hasselbacher indicated Brown County Human Services clients are not receiving notices from Green Bay Metro that their paratransit certification needs to be renewed.

K. Johnson stated that a postcard is mailed to each client approximately six weeks prior to expiration. However, many of the notices are returned to Metro when clients move and their addresses are no longer valid. It is important for the clients to notify Green Bay Metro staff when a change in address occurs.

C. Hasselbacher will let case managers know that the renewal notice is sent in the form of a postcard and that paratransit clients should look for it in the mail.

S. Rosenbaum stated that Medi-Vans staff is not accepting Medical Assistance (MA) trip appointments during the peak hours. S. Rosenbaum stated that the state reimbursement rate is too low and that many providers have dropped and continue to drop out of the program. S. Rosenbaum stated that there was once over 500 certified MA transportation providers in the state, now there is less than 170.

It was determined by the committee that a local MA private provider is no longer offering the service. This has resulted in more MA trip requests for Medi-Vans and potentially more trips for the Paratransit Program.

S. Popp stated that state MA reimbursement rates are very low for the following:

- Personal care workers
- Dental services
- Transportation services

S. Popp indicated that Options for Independent Living staff has shared this information with area legislators.

S. Rosenbaum explained that most MA trip requests come from a client who is in a nursing home. Oftentimes the driver will arrive and the client will not be ready. This adds to the time it takes to make the trip. Many of the MA trips take 60 minutes or more. The reimbursement rate does not cover the cost of providing the trip.

The committee agreed that the problem is getting worse.

S. Rosenbaum stated that Medi-Vans provides a large number of trips to and from dialysis centers on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays.

K. Johnson stated that Metro is offering special fixed route service three times a week to dialysis patients that use the clinic on Riverside Drive because the #16 – Oneida Gaming-Ashwaubenon route has been rerouted due to the STH 172 repair project. The service is also open to the general public.

K. Johnson stated that if clients can, they should take a fixed route bus to the dialysis appointment, and paratransit, if needed, on the return trip.

C. Runge set the next meeting for:

Monday, June 8, 2009  
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center  
901 University Avenue  
Green Bay, Wisconsin  
9:45 a.m.

5. Adjourn.

C. Runge closed the meeting at 11:28 a.m.